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FM AMEMBASSY BELIZE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0661
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE
RUCNCOM/EC CARICOM COLLECTIVE
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA

UNCLAS BELIZE 000968

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y //REMOVED ALL NOFORN CAPTIONS//

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR WHA/CEN (MACK)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [BH](#)

SUBJECT: HOW MANY BELIZEANS DOES IT TAKE TO SCREW IN A LIGHTBULB?

This cable is SBU. Please protect accordingly.

1. (SBU) In an effort to fulfill its 2003 election campaign promise to lower Belizeans' electricity bills, Prime Minister Said Musa announced plans to replace traditional incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient fluorescent ones in every home in the country. The Cuban government donated 300,000 fluorescent light bulbs to launch the Energy Saving Project in Belize. During a televised interview, GoB officials stated that they received enough bulbs for the entire country and that the joint project was indicative of the very mutually beneficial relationship between Belize and Cuba.

2. (U) The bulbs, manufactured by Phillips, would cost roughly BZ \$4.5 million (US \$2.25 million) if purchased at retail. PM Musa touted the efficiency of the bulbs, noting that they consume less electricity, produce less heat, and last five to six times longer than a regular incandescent bulb.

3. (SBU) Comment. Based on recent press coverage of the Energy Saving Project, in Belize, light bulb installation requires between 5 and 8 people including a Cuban social worker and a soldier from the Belize Defence Force. On October 25, the project's launch date, PM Musa, Minister of Defence Cordel Hyde, and Cuban Ambassador to Belize Eugenio Martinez installed a few bulbs, too. The political opposition paper headlined its press coverage: 'Take Their Light Bulbs But Not Their Screwing!' End comment.

DIETER